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Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Genetics Building
The University of Wisconsin
Madison 6, Wisconsin

Dear Joshua:

When I read the enclosure by Garrett Hardin, I recalled our little post-luncheon bull session of a year ago on the steps of the Biochemistry Building. It seems to me that each of you has a point to make and that both points, although they seem diametrically opposed, are valuable. As you would hope and work for a greater preciseness of meaning in the written word, with justification, Garrett has a damned good case, I think, in his plea for more "unclarity".

Thanks for the latest "progress report". Bear in mind that I do not want to push you. It is simply that you have said that the book will justify a fast production schedule. We will have, these coming eighteen months, the heaviest production load we have ever had. I want very much to see your desires and the needs of the book satisfied. This will require planning. (Furthermore, I think it might be a very worth-while idea to send your little manuscript to one reader --someone who has perspective, authority, and judgment--such as Curt Stern or George Beadle. Let me have your opinion of this, for even though it might delay publication for a month, it might also be in the long run extra insurance that the book will stand up to the critics and maintain longer its usefulness.)

My best wishes to the two of you for the New Year. I am hoping that April will get me to Madison for a visit with you, or that something will bring either or both of you to the Bay area long enough for you to have a visit with us.

Sincerely yours,

WHF:mc
Enclosure